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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

# INFORMATION REPORT

## REPORT

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DATE DISTR. 24 April 1951

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Pirot Area

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50X1-HUM

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1. In October 1950 a number of military reserve personnel were called up and assigned to the Anti-Tank Company of 2 Battalion, 17 Infantry Regiment, in Piroet. These men reportedly had no interest in their training, complained openly of the difficulties in their local villages, of heavy taxation, compulsory work, lack of food and consumer goods and the pressure of local authorities. In their officers' absence, they spoke openly against the Yugoslav Communist regime and their village Communist authorities. They allegedly believed the military training to be useless, stated that they would not fight to maintain a Communist regime in Yugoslavia and that, in case of war, they would leave their military units, and return to their villages with their arms to exterminate the Communist officials there.
2. Similar talk and complaints took place among the military conscripts, but less obtrusively and only when known to each other as anti-Communist.
3. High-ranking Yugoslav Army officers who are Cominformists are allegedly escaping to Bulgaria and Albania. In January 1951 an order was received by all Yugoslav Border Guard Units, alerting them to be on the lookout for an Air Force Major from Skopje and an Infantry Major from Strumica who had left their posts and were believed to be attempting escape from Yugoslavia.
4. In order to prevent their influencing garrison personnel, non-commissioned officers of Border Guard units who are not Party members are assigned administrative duties or are assigned guard duty at the border. Conscript morale within the Border Guard units is very poor.
5. Propaganda to army personnel presents the Soviets as imperialists who attempted to colonialize Yugoslavia as they did Bulgaria. Political commissars speak of the first post-war years as a period when the Russians bought quantities of Yugoslav food, wine, tobacco, and ore but failed to make payment with the promised Soviet machinery. Thus, Tito and the Yugoslav Communist Party saved Yugoslavia from becoming a Soviet colony.

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6. Respect by conscripts and non-commissioned officers, and even by the younger officers, for the officers of command post rank is lacking since the commanders are without military education and only obtained their rank in the partisan liberation struggle. Ninety percent of military conscripts and ninety-five percent of the military reserves would allegedly refuse to follow the orders of their officers in the event of war.

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